

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3510

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO DPC MINISTERIAL: STANDARDIZATION
AND COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS

SUMMARY: INFORMAL VIEWS OF FRG AND UK DEFENSE ADVISORS ARE THAT
DPC MINISTERIAL RESULTS WERE VERY POSITIVE, ENDORSING SPECIFIC
PROGRAMS IN MANY AREAS. STANDARDIZATION AND COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS
PROCUREMENT RECOGNIZED AS PERHAPS MOST CRITICAL AREA.
BOTH ALLIES SUPPORTED IDEA OF EARLY PACKAGE AGREEMENTS WHICH
MIGHT INCREASE NUMBER OF NATIONAL SYSTEMS SOMEWHAT, BUT WOULD
PROVIDE DEGREE OF NATO COMMONALITY. PACKAGE PROGRAMS SEEM
POSSIBLE IN AREAS OF BOTH ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS.
ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON ANALYSIS OF POSSIBILITIES FOR EARLY
MOVEMENT TOWARD NATO COMMONALITY IN WEAPONS AND TOWARD UNIFIED
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LOGISTICS SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS INFORMAL INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS OF
US DEP DEF ADVISOR

(BGEN BOWMAN) WITH FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR (BG SCHUNEMANN) AND UK DEFENSE ADVISOR (MACDONALD). ATTITUDE TOWARD DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS VERY FAVORABLE WITH JUDGMENT THAT A RECORD NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY MINISTERS. TRICK WOULD BE TO TRANSLATE GENERAL POLICY GUIDANCE INTO CONCRETE STEP BY STEP PROGRESS IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION IN CAPITALS FROM MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GROUPS WITH NARROW INTERESTS TO DEFEND. FRG DEF ADV REPORTS THAT FRG WAS VERY PLEASED WITH INITIATIVES IN DR. SCHLESINGER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD AND HOPED TO ASSIST IN FOLLOW-UP.

2. BOTH UK AND FRG DEFENSE ADVISORS AGREED THAT STANDARDIZATION AND COOPERATION IN ARMANENTS WAS AREA DESERVING MAXIMUM ATTENTION DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. FOUR LARGEST ALIES (US, UK, FRG, AND FRANCE) JUDGED TO BE THE KEY AS PRODUCERS OF 90 PERCENT OF ARMAMENTS. SMALLER COUNTRIES MUST BE KEPT INFORMED AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE TO EXTENT ABLE; THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE COMPLAINED THAT AS PURCHASERS OF ARMS, THEY PAY HIGHER PRICES BECAUSE OF UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF ARMS PROGRAMS AMONG FOUR LARGEST ALLIES.

3. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT LIMIT EFFORT TO LONG RANGE STUDIES THAT NEVER SEEM TO PAY OFF AND INSTEAD SHOULD LOOK HARD AT SYTEMS CURRENTLY ENTERING PROCUREMENT AND DEVELOP PACKAGE PROPOSALS WITH BALANCED TRADE-OFFS THAT WOULD COUNTER NATIONAL OPPOSITION. UK AND FRG REPS FELT THAT NATO PROBABLY CANNOT ELIMINATE ANY MAJOR NEW SYSTEMS; NATO AS A WHOLE WILL HAVE MOST OF THEM IN ITS INVENTORIES. BUT THEY REACTED FAVORABLY TO SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS FIRST STEP TOWARD STANDARDIZATION SHOULD BE TO ACCEPT A LITTLE MORE NATIONAL PROLI-FERATION OF WEAPONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE NATO COMMONALITY. ONE STEP BACKWARD TO ACHIEVE TWO STEPS FORWARD:

A. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO TRAIN WITH AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TYPES OF WEAPONS (IN NATO AREA), BUT FORCES OF ONE ALLY COULD REINFORCETHOSE OF ANOTHER AND COUNT ON ABILITY TO WORK WITH AND USE WEAPONS FOUND THERE AS WELL AS SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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ETC. COULD ALSO BE SOME ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN WEAPONS CAPABILITY

B. DRAWBACKS OF SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLICATED NATIONAL LOGISTICS COULD BE MORE THAN BALANCED BY ADVANTAGES OF COMMON NATO LOGISTICS SUPPLY, MAINTAINENCE, ETC. WOULD ALSO BOOST LONGER RANGE COOPERATION IN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND IN AREA OF CONCEPTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF WEAPONS.

4. THE TWO AREAS DESERVING IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION APPEAR TO BE ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS BEING DEPLOYED OR ABOUT TO BE DEPLOYED:
US DRAGON (1000 METERS, ONE MAN CREW),
FRG-FRENCH MILAN (2000 METERS, TWO MAN CREW),

US TOW (3000 METERS, 4 MAN CREW), AND
UK SWINGFIRE (4000 METERS).

THE US IS BUYING DRAGON AND TOW WHILE EUROPEANS APPEAR TO BE
LEANING TOWARD MILAN AND TOW. PRINCIPAL MOBILE ANTI-AIR SYSTEMS:
UK RAPIER (TRUCK-CARRIED), FRENCH CROTALE (WHEEL-MOUNTED),
AND FRG-FRENCH ROLAND (TRACK-MOUNTED).

5. STANDARDIZATION AND COOPERATION MIGHT RESULT FROM AGREEMENTS
AMONG FOUR POWERS TO EACH ADOPT DRAGON, MILAN AND TOW FOR ANTI-
TANK AND BOTH TRUCK-CARRIED RAPIER FOR AIR DEFENSE OF AIR
BASES AND REAR AREAS, AND TRACK-MOUNTED ROLAND FOR AIR DEFENSES
IN MANEUVER UNITS. US-UK AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE UK BUYING DRAGON
AND SOME TOW WHILE US BUYS RAPIER (LICENSING, ETC. WOULD HAVE
TO BALANCE OUT; SAME US COMPANY HOLDS LICENSE FOR RAPIER AND
PRODUCES DRAGON). US-FRG/France AGREEMENT WOULD INCLUDE
DRAGON/TOW PURCHASES BY EUROPEANS AND MILAN/ROLAND BUYS BY THE
US. UK-FRG/France EXCHANGE WOULD INVOLVE RAPIER FOR MILAN AND
ROLAND.

6. THESE PARTICULAR PACKAGE ARRANGEMENTS MAY NOT PROVE ACCEPTABLE,
BUT MISSION RECOMMENDS SERIOUS WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF APPROACH.
IT MAY WELL BE THAT A LITTLE LESS THAN OPTIMUM CAPABILITY
FOR THE US INDIVIDUALLY MIGHT BE WORTH ACCEPTING TO GAIN MORE

CAPABILITY FOR NATO AS A WHOLE, AND TO INCREASE MOMENTUM TOWARD
NATO COMMONALITY OF WEAPONS AND COMMON LOGISTICS. RUMSFELD

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